

Illinois and Michigan Canal National
Heritage Corridor Commission

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2002



The Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission

Chairman: Ronald H. Dodd
Vice Chairman: Anatole Milunas
Secretary: Jean Ann Robinson
Treasurer: Herbert T. Schumann, Jr.

Gerald Adelmann
James Brown
David Carr
Michael Conzen
James Gale
Andrée-Marie Koban
Roger Kotecki
John Lamb
Ronald Lehman
Susan Mogerman
William Schenk
E.P. "Bob" Stewart
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Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission **Annual Report** **FY 2002**

Introduction

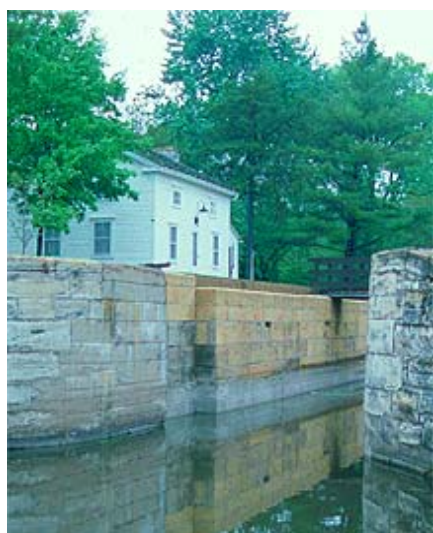
The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor is **the nation's first national heritage area**. It was created by an Act of Congress on August 24, 1984 (P.L. 98-398). Located in the northeast part of Illinois, stretching from the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago west for approximately 100 miles to Peru and LaSalle, Illinois, it follows the route of the Illinois & Michigan Canal.



The law that created the corridor also created a **19-member Federal Commission, staffed by the National Park Service**, as a coordinating body. While neither the Commission nor the National Park Service owns, manages or regulates any areas within the heritage corridor, they provide (through staff and funding) expertise and assistance in the preservation of the corridor's resources, in promoting public awareness and understanding of the canal corridor, and in helping the numerous governments and organizations in the area to work together effectively. The Commission is currently authorized through August 24, 2004 (see Appendix I).

The **mission** of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission, as stated in the Purpose of our authorizing legislation, is:

To retain, enhance and interpret, for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations, the cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources of the corridor, where feasible, consistent with industrial and economic growth.



*Locktender's House at Lock #6
Channahon, Illinois*

The I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor, as **an affiliated area of the National Park System**, is a "partnership park," in which the 19-member Federal Commission, with the help of the National Park Service, coordinates the work of many partners and provides assistance in many forms:

- ⌘ We provide a **clearinghouse** for information, resources and assistance through a weekly e-mail bulletin, a bimonthly newsletter, web-based resources and publications.
- ⌘ We have **broad authority to enter into cooperative agreements** with governments and organizations (see page 5) through which we can provide both **funding and assistance**.
- ⌘ **Standing committees** bring together partners from many arenas on a regular basis to share ideas and pool resources.
- ⌘ Our National Park Service staff has direct access to national network of **experts in interpretation, history, architecture** and many other fields. partners from many arenas on a regular basis to share ideas and pool resources.

The Corridor's Resources

Most of the canal itself is still intact (except for the easternmost portion). Most of the **15 locks** have been restored and preserved,



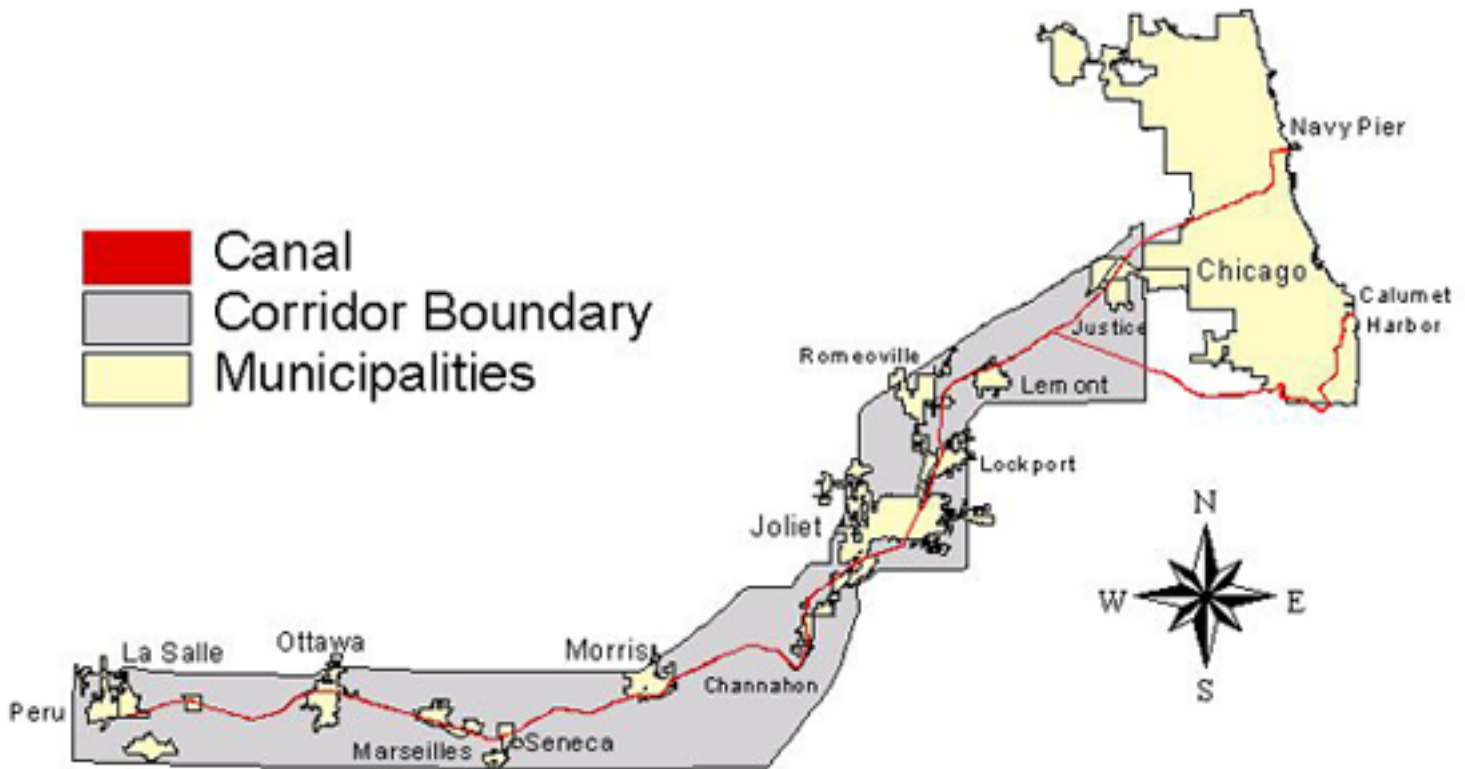
*Reddick Mansion,
Ottawa, Illinois*

and there are **four aqueducts, an original toll house and two locktenders' houses**. Also along the canal are several towns laid out by the original canal commission (including the city of Chicago), which retain their original orientation to the canal, as well as



Lock #1, Lockport, Illinois

a distinctive architectural character, often incorporating local stone. Also within the Corridor is the **Chicago Portage National Historic Site**, another affiliated area of the National Park System and part of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. The Chicago Portage NHS was the central site of the historic portage between the watersheds that inspired the I&M Canal. The corridor provides both an important link to the early settlement of the area and a major recreational resource. The state parks along the canal also preserve important natural resources, such as Goose Lake Prairie, a significant prairie preserve.



The 97-mile canal was built between 1836 and 1848 to connect the Great Lakes (Lake Michigan) to the Mississippi River watershed (at the Illinois River) along the path of a longstanding Indian portage route. The canal extended from the Bridgeport neighborhood, now part of Chicago, west to Peru, Illinois. By completing the water-based shipping and transportation link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the canal rapidly transformed Chicago from a small settlement to a critical transportation hub between the East and the developing Midwest. It established what is still an active industrial and transportation corridor, and was **designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966**. The canal and towpath, now a recreational trail, are owned and managed by the State of Illinois.

Commission Projects and Activities in FY02

The Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission pursues its mission with three major goals: Resource Preservation, Public Awareness and Interpretation; and Economic Development. This year, the Commission's increased appropriation allowed us to directly support a number of new initiatives and enhance our existing programs:

- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Information Clearinghouse
- Corridor Planning

⌘ **The Partnership Project Fund**, a competitive matching fund program available to government and non-profit groups, was established. In its first year, \$58,772 was awarded to nine partners for Corridor projects totaling almost \$200,000. (see page 6)

⌘ **Publications and Clearinghouse:** This year we tripled our mailing list, revived our newsletter and launched a new weekly e-mail bulletin to provide real-time news and updates to all our partners. We produced and distributed a new Corridor Brochure (below) with an enhanced map that shows all the canal features for the first time. The new Gateway brochure has put information about the Corridor into high-volume Chicago-area brochure racks in places such as Navy Pier and the Water Tower visitor center for the first time ever. Finally, the Commission has begun to develop a Geographic Information System for the National Heritage Corridor, to make available one-stop information on the Corridor's cultural and historical resources for local and state governments, organizations and and researchers.

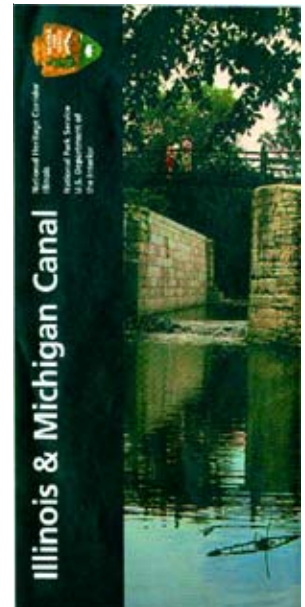


⌘ **Interpretation Services:** The Commission staff continued to support the Corridor Interpreters Group, bringing together interpreters working for local and state organizations throughout the Corridor and providing advice, organization, training and funding. At the Chicago Portage National Historic Site, we brought in a National Park Service interpretive specialist to help develop a script and training



Presentation of new equipment purchased through the NPS-Volunteers in Parks program at Santa Fe Prairie.

program for volunteer docents, and we are funding most of a new signage project (see page 7). We organize a volunteer program that puts interpreters on Amtrak trains running through the Corridor, and we provided equipment and supplies to volunteer stewards at the Santa Fe Prairie in Hodgkins (see picture, left). Our park ranger contributed to the Bike and Brake for History rides with IDNR and the National Trust for Historic Preservation / Canal Corridor Association which attracted more than twice as many riders as the year before.



Program Highlights

Partnership Project Fund
 9 projects
 \$ 58,772 awarded
 \$200,000 match
 Tourist Information Radio
 4 stations re-instated
 Revolving Loan Fund
 3 projects
 \$250,000 invested
 Interpreters Group
 20 members
 Volunteers-in-Parks
 82 Volunteers
 4,300 Volunteer Hours
 Publications
 300,000 Gateway Brochures
 100,000 Corridor Brochures
 100,000 Archeology Brochures
 3,000 Newsletters
 Interpretive Signs
 2 New Signs
 27 Signs Replaced

⌘ **Strategic Planning:** In February, March and April 2002, the Commission convened a wide range of our partners to talk about roles of different organizations and how we can best work together for the Corridor. These meetings resulted in joint recommendations: 1) that the Commission with its partners should pursue an updated strategic plan for the Corridor; 2) that the Commission should re-focus on its unique role as an information clearinghouse; and 3) that there should be forums for partners and the public to communicate outside of formal Commission meetings. A Coordinating Council consisting of the Commission, the Canal Corridor Association, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau formed to advise on a strategic plan, and the Commission will ensure its completion during FY03.

⌘ **Tourist information radio stations:** The Commission's four transmitters had not been working for at least five years. In FY02, the Commission replaced the equipment, and new messages that can alert travelers to visitor centers and special events are now broadcasting.



⌘ The Commission's **Revolving Loan Fund** is currently assisting three economic development projects over \$1.7 million dollars with \$250 thousand invested.

Interpreters Group

The Commission provides both financial and technical assistance to the Illinois & Michigan Canal Interpreters Group. This group was formed in order to increase the level of professionalism among corridor interpreters and provides a forum for every interpreter in the Corridor, paid or volunteer, to share information, develop corridor projects, and improve their skills. Members meet several times each year throughout the Corridor. Current participants include interpretive staff from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve Districts of Cook and Will Counties, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Corridor historical societies and museums, area nature centers and park districts, the Canallers (a group of re-enactors), and visitor centers.

Meeting Locations

Morris
 Willow Springs
 Lockport
 Palos Heights
 Seneca

Share Information

Improve Skills

Develop Projects



Environmental Education Center at Lake Katherine in Palos Heights, Illinois

Working Together

The Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission exists to work in partnership with the many governments, organizations and agencies in the Corridor. Without their vision, dedication, and experience, the Corridor cannot succeed in its goals. During FY02, the Commission has worked to keep our partnership ties strong as well as to establish new contacts. We have actively sought to encourage the participation and co-operation of other agencies, organizations and units of government.

On page 7, two projects are highlighted that show how the Commission can help local communities with resource enhancement and as a liaison between the many layers of government in the Corridor.

Some of Our Partners

Non-Profits:

Canal Corridor Association
Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau

Federal:

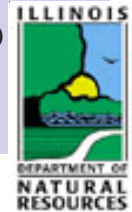
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Amtrak

State:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency

Local:

Communities
Park Districts (including Chicago)
Forest Preserve Districts
(including Cook and Will Counties)
The Illinois & Michigan Canal National
Heritage Corridor Civic Center
Authority



Cooperative Agreements

Many partnerships, particularly where financial or technical assistance are extended by the Commission, are formalized by the execution of a Cooperative Agreement (CA). These legal documents establish specific workplans and define the responsibilities of both parties. Through the execution of Cooperative Agreements, the Commission is able to make a portion of its annual congressional appropriation available directly to partners to support projects that further its mission.

Nine new Cooperative Agreements were executed during FY02 for our new Partnership Project Fund. These agreements provide up to 50% of the costs for nine projects in the National Heritage Corridor. These awards, totaling \$58,772, supported projects worth nearly \$200,000. For a description of the funded projects, see page 6.

The Commission has longstanding agreements with two major partners, the non-profit Canal Corridor Association (CCA) and the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau (HCCVB) in support of a variety of publications and interpretive activities and other public outreach. In FY02, the Commission modified these agreements with new work programs for the year:

⌘ Canal Corridor Association (\$107,718)

To support the development of the Port of LaSalle Project, the I&M Canal Teacher's Workshop, the I&M Canal Award presented at the Illinois History Fair, the 150th Anniversary Event for the City of LaSalle, and various signage projects.

⌘ Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau (\$104,918)

To support Visitor Center operations, the Calendar of Events, tourism advertising and marketing, familiarization tours, public relations, the development of a new "Outdoors in the Corridor" brochure, a visitor analysis study and the development and distribution of the new "Gateway Brochure."

FY02 Partnership Project Fund

- ⌘ Will County Historic Preservation Commission **(\$5,010)**
Develop a video as part of a multimedia approach to the primary education of the public with regard to the built environment and landscape; specifically, to explore the impact of the I&M Canal upon the development of Will County's rural landscape.



Dennis Cremin (center) of the National Trust, received a Partnership Project Fund Award from Commission Vice-Chairman Anatole Milunas (left) and Chairman Ron Dodd (right).

- ⌘ Ottawa Visitors Center **(\$10,000)**
The creation of an outdoor mural depicting the importance of the I&M Canal in the origination and development of the City of Ottawa.
- ⌘ Forest Preserve District of Cook County **(\$5,000)**
Fabrication and installation of five wayside signs that will orient visitors and help them to understand the historic importance of the Chicago Portage National Historic Site, an affiliated area of the National Park System located in the Portage Woods Forest Preserve in Lyons.
- ⌘ Forest Preserve District of Will County **(\$10,000)**
Fabricate a reproduction of a Native American Woodland Period Longhouse at Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville as part of an educational and interpretive program about the rich cultural heritage of the Native Americans that inhabited the region and to provide a community setting for local Native American groups to share their traditions.
- ⌘ Joliet Park District **(\$5,000)**
Extend the Mighty Acorns Program at Pilcher Park Nature Center which will introduce young people and educators to nature through stewardship and exploration in a way that fosters a personal connection to nature.
- ⌘ City of Lockport **(\$5,000)**
Purchase and install seasonal banners on light poles in the Lockport Historic District that will include text relating to the I&M Canal.
- ⌘ National Trust for Historic Preservation **(\$ 6,112)**
Fabricate and install a 1/2-scale canal boat and mural in the Hands-on-History Gallery of the Gaylord Building Historic Site.
- ⌘ Illinois River Area Chamber of Commerce **(\$2,650)**
Conduct community-based strategic planning and visioning sessions to help local leaders, residents, and civic organizations develop a long-term vision, and formulate a plan of action for community and economic development for the communities of Marseilles and Seneca.
- ⌘ Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority **(\$10,000)**
The project will create a partnership among the five communities of Summit, Bedford Park, Justice, Willow Springs and Lemont that will create a locally preferred plan for the restoration of two sections of the I&M Canal. The resulting plan will then inform and guide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project for the restoration of the canal and its aquatic habitat.



Spotlights on Working Together

CHICAGO PORTAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Chicago Portage is one of only two National Historic Sites in Illinois (the other is the Lincoln Home NHS in Springfield). Located within the National Heritage Corridor, it is a separate affiliated area of the National Park System owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is located in Portage Woods in the town of Lyons.

- ⌘ As the site marking the original Native American portage between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds that inspired the building of the I&M Canal along the same route, it is truly the beginning of the I&M Canal story – a critical place to talk about why the canal was built, why here, why it was so important, and why the great City of Chicago grew where it did.
- ⌘ Its location just outside Chicago is important to link the story of the I&M Canal to its origins in the Chicago area, to fill in the interpretive gaps left by the destruction of the eastern portions of the canal, and to create a gateway westward to the rest of the National Heritage Corridor.

Recognizing the site's historic significance, strategic importance for the National Heritage Corridor and status as a National Historic Site, the Commission is working with the **Forest Preserve District** and the **I&M Canal Civic Center Authority** to enhance interpretation at the site. In FY02, the Commission:

- ⌘ Contracted with a firm to develop text and graphics for five **interpretive signs** at the site. (At this time there is a single sign erected by the Commission more than 10 years ago)
- ⌘ Made a **Partnership Project Fund** award to the Forest Preserve District to match the cost of fabrication and installation of the signs along a new loop trail planned by the FPD.



OTTAWA TOLL HOUSE

The Ottawa Toll House is the last remaining original toll house along the canal, a contributing structure to the I&M Canal National Historic Landmark, located in Ottawa in LaSalle County. It is owned by the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources** (IDNR). A small structure, it has had many uses and has long been vacant. Both IDNR and the **City of Ottawa** are eager to make the building an asset to the community once again, and IDNR has funds available to rehabilitate it.

One of the options considered by IDNR as part of a rehabilitation plan included moving the building across the street, as it is on a cramped site along a recently widened road. The Commission, although equally eager to see it brought back to life, was concerned that the building should stay on its original site if possible. By facilitating communication between the City of Ottawa, the **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**, IDNR, the **Illinois Department of Transportation** and the bank that recently acquired an adjacent site, the Commission was able to act as a bridge between agencies. Discussions are now moving toward a compromise that will keep the Toll House on its original site, yet make it safely accessible for a new public use.



The Commission

The Commission consists of 19 members serving 3-year terms, nominated by the Governor of Illinois and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The Commission carries out its duties through its standing committees. These committees incorporate Commissioners and other resource members, and meet bi-monthly. The Commission's membership provides the core of our partnership activity. (See next page)



The Commission met five times throughout the Corridor in FY2002:

<i>November 8, 2001</i>	<i>Romeoville</i>
<i>January 10, 2002</i>	<i>Lockport</i>
<i>September 19, 2002</i>	<i>Lemont</i>
<i>March 14, 2002</i>	<i>Summit</i>
<i>May 9, 2002</i>	<i>LaSalle</i>

Officers are elected every other year at the annual meeting of the Commission, held in May. The current officers will serve until May 2003:

Officers

Chairman: Ronald Dodd
 Vice-Chairman: Anatole Milunas
 Secretary: Jean Ann Robinson
 Treasurer: Herbert T. Schumann, Jr.

The Commission

- 1) The Director of the National Park Service (delegated to the Regional Director; an ex officio position):
Midwest Regional Director Bill Schenk
- 2) Three individuals representing state and local government:
Three positions currently vacant
- 3) Representatives of the County Boards of the counties in which the Corridor is located, including one representative of a forest preserve district:
Herbert T. Schumann, Jr., Cook Co. Forest Preserve Dist.
Roger Kotecki, DuPage County
Will County position vacant
Grundy County position vacant
LaSalle County position vacant
- 4) Representatives of the following specialties:
 History: **John Lamb, Lewis University**
 Archaeology: **James Brown, Northwestern University**
 Historic Preservation: **Michael Conzen, University of Chicago**
 Recreation: **Ronald Dodd, Exec. Director, Joliet Park Dist.**
 Conservation: **position vacant**
- 5) Five representatives of business and industry:
Ronald Lehman, Channahon
Anatole Milunas, Downers Grove
Jean Ann Robinson, Morris
E.P. "Bob" Stewart, Joliet
Edmund Thornton, Ottawa

The terms of all but two Commissioners expired in April 2001; the other two expired in June 2002. In August 2002, Governor George M. Ryan submitted nominations for a new slate of commissioners to the Secretary of the Interior.

Several Commissioners resigned this year. The reasons included changing jobs, retirement, and choosing not to continue serving after the expiration of their terms:

Gerald Adelmann (Conservation)
 David Carr (State Government – Dept. of Natural Resources)
 James Gale (Will County Board)
 Andrée-Marie Koban (LaSalle County Board)
 Susan Mogerman (State Government – Historic Preservation Agency)
 Thomas Wilkinson (Grundy County Board)

Committees and Staff

⌘ **Interpretation and Historic Preservation Committee** – This committee has the responsibility for the Corridor’s interpretive media and educational activities. It provides a forum for the Commission and its partners to comment on projects which might affect Corridor resources. The Committee includes representatives of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Canal Corridor Association, Forest Preserve Districts, and other state and local public and private agencies.

⌘ **Recreation and Tourism Committee**– This committee has the responsibility for the development of Commission-sponsored or Corridor-wide recreational programs, the promotion of the Corridor, and the preservation of natural areas. The committee includes representatives of the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Forest Preserve Districts, Canal Corridor Association, and other recreation and tourism agencies.

⌘ **Economic Development Committee** – This committee has the responsibility for promoting economic development within the Corridor that is consistent with the Commission’s goals. Specifically, it makes decisions relevant to the Commission’s Revolving Loan Fund, derived from an Economic Development Administration grant.

⌘ **Executive Committee** – This committee has the responsibility for setting goals and objectives for the Commission, for finalizing the agenda for Commission meetings, for developing an annual budget, and making committee assignments. It is empowered to act for the Commission in emergency situations.



Members of the Commission’s Interpretation and Historic Preservation Committee and staff tour the Hydroelectric Facility in Dayton, Illinois.

Staff

Phyllis Ellin, Executive Director
Connie Piazza, Secretary
Mary Tano, Planner
Colleen Vollman, Funding Coordinator
Rager Gasa, Park Ranger (Seasonal)

At the beginning of FY02, the Commission’s staff consisted of the Executive Director, Secretary, and seasonal park ranger (who works full time in the summer and one day per week from September – May). The other full-time staff position (formerly an interpretive specialist) had been vacant since August 2000. This position was reclassified as an Outdoor Recreation Planner and filled in November 2001. Filling this position enabled the Commission to catch up on several projects that had been delayed or deferred, such as: resuming publication of our newsletter; completing production of the new Corridor brochure; and launching the Partnership Project Fund.

The Funding Coordinator position was created by the Commission in FY02 primarily to administer the Partnership Project Fund in addition to the Commission’s Revolving Loan Fund, and to provide management assistance on budget and other administrative tasks. This position was not actually filled until the end of FY02, and Colleen Vollman started work in early FY03. With this addition, the Commission’s staff is now able to proactively address the full range of the Commission’s responsibilities.



L-R: Tano, Piazza, Gasa, Ellin, Vollman

Budget

This year, the Commission's annual appropriation increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000. (See Appendix I & II) This allowed for a greater portion of the budget to be expended upon Cooperative Agreements with our major partners and the establishment of our Partnership Project Fund.

The Commission is funded through two areas in the National Park Service budget. The Secretary and Planner, as well as some day-to-day operational expenses, are funded under an Operation of the National Park Service (ONPS) account, since the Commission's legislation requires the National Park Service to detail two employees to the Commission. The remainder of the Commission's staff and all of its substantive activities and local assistance programs are funded under a Heritage Partnership Programs appropriation.

Heritage Partnership Programs account		
Commission Activities		139,087
Partnership Project Fund		
Repair/Replace highway radio info transmitters		
Chicago Portage NHS interpretive signs with Cook County		
Interpreters Training		
Interpreters Group Project – Will County trail signs		
Brochures: Print new Corridor brochure, reprint Archaeology brochure		
Newsletter		
Three meetings with partners to discuss Corridor goals		
Alliance of National Heritage Areas membership		
Cooperative Agreement with Canal Corridor Association		107,718
Port of LaSalle project (canal boat designs & staff)		
Wayfinding signage staff support		
Teachers' Workshop		
Illinois History Fair		
Highway Signs- staff work		
LaSalle 150th anniversary event		
Coop. Agreement with Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau		104,918
Visitor Center Operations		
Calendar of Events- staff and production		
Tourism Advertising & Marketing		
Public Relations- staff		
New "Outdoors in the Corridor" brochure		
Visitor analysis study		
Administrative		116,836
2 staff salaries/benefits, travel		
Commissioner attend World Canals Conference		
Office move and equipment for new employee (one-time expenses)		31,441
TOTAL	\$	500,000
ONPS Account		
2 staff: salaries/benefits, travel, training	\$	83,639
Office expenses: rent, vehicle, utilities, supplies		38,891
NPS administrative services (contracting, personnel, payroll, IT)		35,000
TOTAL	\$	157,530

In addition to the Heritage Partnership and ONPS funds, we have access to funds through the National Park Service to support volunteer activities

Plans for the Future

- ⌘ At recent meetings convened to talk with our partners (held in February, March, April October of 2002), many groups and individuals stressed the critical role that the Commission must play to provide a **clearinghouse and point of coordination** for the partners in the Corridor; no other organization is charged with this role. In fact, our e-mail bulletin and new ad hoc Signage Committee were established as a direct result of these suggestions, and we are committed to continue to be even more effective in this role. We have begun work on a GIS project to make coordinated resource information widely available to local governments and other partners.
- ⌘ The Commission is also in the unique position of having the **ability to directly assist the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)** in their stewardship of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Our top priority is to match the State's funding and provide technical advice for their planned Master Plan for the I&M Canal. An up-to-date guideline that identifies proper maintenance techniques and interpretation goals, as well as priority physical projects is greatly needed – without it, neither IDNR nor potential fund sources (including the Commission) can effectively choose among the many rewatering and restoration projects that are often suggested.
- ⌘ **Sustain and enhance the Partnership Project Fund:** The potential of this program has barely been explored. The articulation of shared project priorities as part of our strategic planning will help us target projects that will most benefit the Corridor overall, as well as continuing to provide direct support to grass-roots needs.
- ⌘ **Planning for the future:** Our meetings with partners also articulated strong support for strategic planning for the Corridor. This means identifying our shared top priority projects and clarifying the roles that each partner and the Commission should play in making them happen. This is particularly important as we look beyond the Commission's current authorization through August 2004. We have embarked on a fast-track strategic action plan with our partners that will be completed in October 2003.
- ⌘ **Outreach to communities:** FY03 will see a greater emphasis by the staff on reaching out to communities and governments to identify their needs and how the Commission can best help them. We have been in a primarily reactive mode in the past; we now have the capability to be more proactive in fulfilling our responsibilities.
- ⌘ **Special Projects:** As funding permits, there are many opportunities for the Commission to direct assistance to projects that can have a special impact, such as:
 - ** Major interpretive projects initiated by partners, such as Canal Origins Park in Chicago and the Port of LaSalle.
 - ** Modern information facilities at our visitor centers, such as touch-screen kiosks. (Our original interpretive videotape is at least 15 years old).
 - ** A new program of public tours and proactive interpretive visitor services and publications.

Appendix I

Legislative History

- P.L. 98-398 Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984
August 24, 1984
- Established the National Heritage Corridor and the Commission for 10 years;
Authorized \$250,000 per year for the Commission
- P.L. 104-333 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Act, Sec. 902
November 12, 1996
- Directed the Commission to study possible additions to the National Heritage Corridor.
- P.L. 105-355 Automobile National Heritage Area Act, Title V – Other Matters, Sec. 502
November 6, 1998
- Extended authorization of the Commission to 2004.
- P.L. 106-554 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Section 126
December 19, 2000
- Increased authorization for Commission annual appropriations to \$1,000,000

Funding History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Heritage Partnerships (Commission)</u>		<u>NPS Assistance</u>
1985	\$ 245,000	\$	0
1986	237,000		300,000
1987	250,000		351,900
1988	250,000		151,200
1989	250,000		150,300
1990	250,000		148,000
1991	249,000		153,000
1992	247,000		154,000
1993	248,000		154,000
1994	250,000		153,000
1995	250,000		152,000
1996	238,000		152,000
1997	238,000		152,000
1998	238,000		153,000
1999	239,000		154,000
2000	240,000		182,527
2001	239,000		154,900
2002	500,000		157,530
2003			

Cover photograph- Lock # 1, Lockport

Back Cover Photograph- Lock #8, Aux Sable

